

There are really just two simple steps to effective participation in transportation projects:

One, do your research and find out what projects are out there and what they are about...what will they build? What impacts and benefits are expected? Then...

"I'm not much of a public speaker"

Two, you don't have to make speeches in front of large groups of people in order to have your say. Get on a project mailing list so that you're aware of the latest developments. Read project reports. Then, draw a picture, write a letter, take a photo, send an email, cut out magazine articles about things implemented in other places, make a phone call, talk at a meeting, join a workshop.... Through your input, the NHDOT strives to achieve full and fair participation of all affected communities.

Other pieces in the Citizen's Guide to Transportation series include:

- #2 Planning the Future of New Hampshire Transportation
- #3 Project Development: Making transportation projects a reality
- #4 Access Management
- #5 Transportation Enhancement Program
- #6 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program
- #7 The Transportation/Land Use Relationship

8.1.01

COMMUNITIES

already make the difference in New Hampshire

Residents of New Hampshire communities are already influencing transportation projects on a regular basis.

In **Hillsborough, New Hampshire**, a project long requested by the Town to relocate US 202/NH 9 around the village area is now under construction and will be completed soon. Already, local revitalization projects are underway to enhance the character of the village long dominated by traffic congestion and heavy truck traffic on the highway, which also serves as the Town's Main Street. Public participation throughout the preliminary design process played an important role in shaping the bypass alignment and keeping the project on schedule.



The replacement of a bridge within the historic district of **Durham, New Hampshire**, was of great concern to citizens of that town. Public input influenced the eventual width of the roadway, the design of the new bridge, and other details which helped the project fit in with the picturesque character of Durham.



#1

New Hampshire Department of Transportation
Citizen's Guide to Transportation Series

HAVING YOUR SAY

in transportation projects that shape your community



The components of transportation – roads, sidewalks, intersections, paths, rails, stations, stops, travel time – affect your commute, your recreational opportunities, your shopping trips, your child's trip to school, the character and size of your town, the beauty of the countryside, you and your family's safety. The demand for better transportation options is growing everyday, and new projects are being developed to meet this demand. The resulting transportation facilities shape your community, which is why NHDOT wants you to have your say about how they take shape.

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) needs your help to determine the best transportation solutions for your community. Time and time again, experience has shown that the best transportation projects evolve from strong teamwork between engaged citizens who know and care about their communities - residents, business owners, interest groups - and the planners, designers and policy makers whose job it is to make those projects happen. NHDOT wants you on their team to help make transportation decisions that are beneficial to every part of New Hampshire, each region, and the state as a whole.



Workshops, like this one, held as part of the Concord 20/20 Vision Plan, bring communities and agencies together to discuss transportation and planning issues.

Federal Policy sets the tone

The passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), 1991, was a turning point in the way transportation facilities were planned and implemented. The focus was no longer on roadways, but on an integrated package of mobility options: roadways, transit, bikeways, and pedestrian pathways. ISTEA also paid attention to how these facilities contributed to the character and livability of communities. It recognized that no one was better equipped to make those determinations than the communities themselves, and promoted the importance of regular public input throughout the project planning and development processes. The successor to ISTEA, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), and other Federal regulations, such as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, continue the emphasis on public involvement during transportation project development to achieve full and fair participation of all affected communities.

Opportunities for Public Involvement

Project Phase	Input Forum
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Planning by Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) Metropolitan Planning and Organizations (MPOs) NHDOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ten-Year Statewide Transportation Program meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial project concept and issues – "Scoping"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scoping meetings and/or advisory task force meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public officials meetings• Informational meetings and/or public hearings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary and final design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public officials meetings• Advisory task force meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public officials meetings• Informational meetings

Informal public comments are welcome by NHDOT at any point in the process, through voice, mail, email or other means of communication

HAVING YOUR SAY...



Contact these agencies to participate in the planning and implementation of transportation facilities in your community:



New Hampshire Department of Transportation

John O. Morton Building
1 Hazen Drive
P.O. Box 483
Concord, NH 03302-0483
603.271.3344
Fax 603.271.8093
bureau46@dot.state.nh.us
www.nhdot.com

North Country Council

107 Glessner Road
Bethlehem, NH 03574
603-444-6303
fax 603-444-7588
nccinc@moose.ncia.net
www.ncccouncil.org

Lakes Region Planning Commission

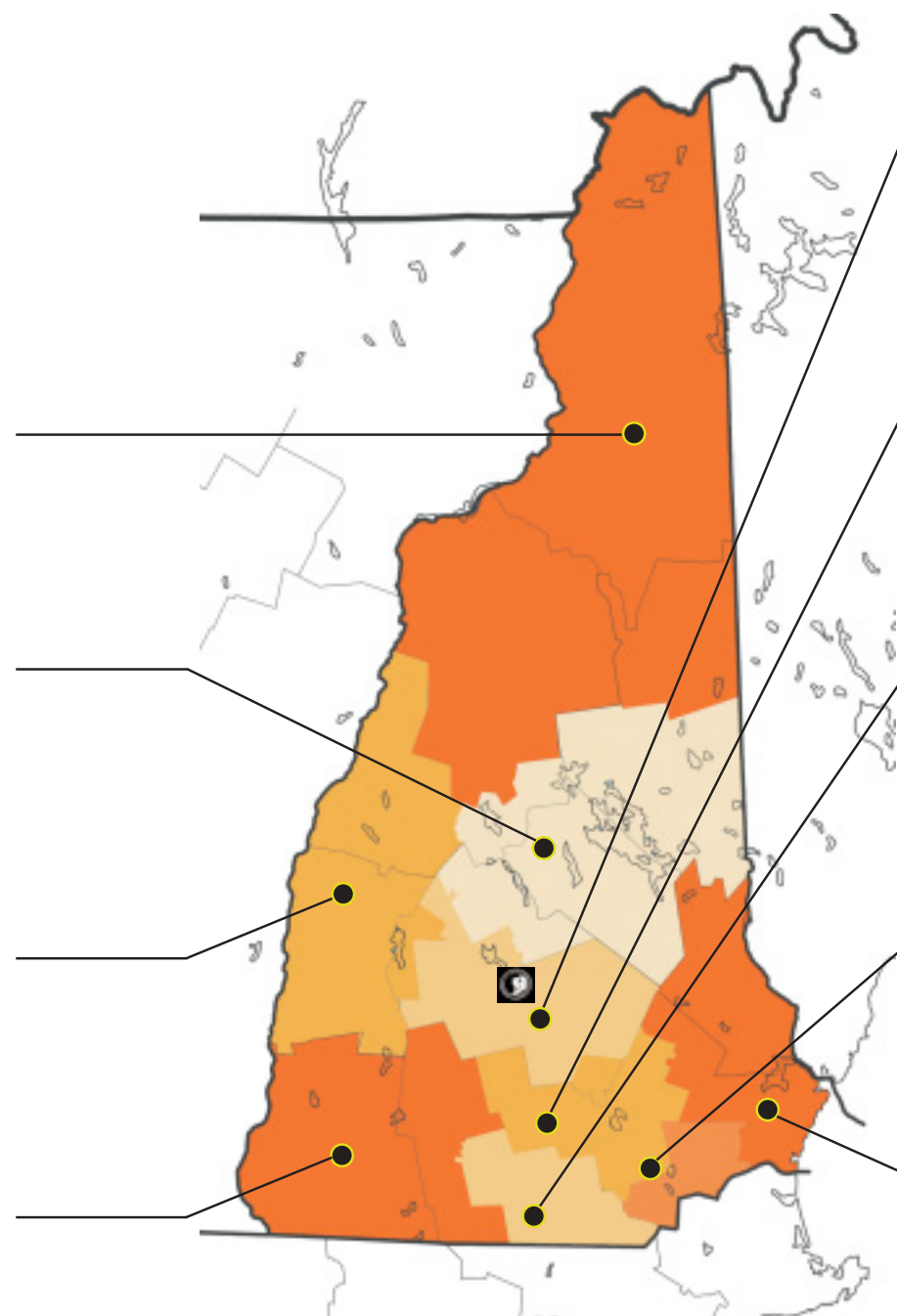
Humiston Building
103 Main Street, Ste. 3
Meredith, NH 03253
603-279-8171
fax 603-279-0200
lrpc@lakesrpc.org
www.lakesrpc.org

Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

77 Bank Street
Lebanon, NH 03766
603-448-1680
fax 603-448-0170
info@uvlsrpc.org
www.uvlsrpc.org

Southwest Region Planning Commission

20 Central Square, 2nd Floor
Keene, NH 03431
603-357-0557
fax 603-357-7440
swrpc@top.monad.net
www.swrpc.org



Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission

28 Commercial Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-226-6020
fax 603-226-6023
mtardiff@cnhrpc.org
www.cnhrpc.org

Southern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission

438 Dubuque Street
Manchester, NH 03102-3546
603-669-4664
fax 603-669-4350
email@snhpc.org
www.snhpc.org

Nashua Regional Planning Commission

115 Main Street, P.O. Box 847
Nashua, NH 03061
603-883-0366
fax 603-883-6572
andrew@nashuarpc.org
www.nashuarpc.org

Rockingham Regional Planning Commission

156 Water Street
Exeter, NH 03833
603-778-0885
fax 603-778-9183
email@rpc-nh.org
www.rpc-nh.org

Strafford Regional Planning Commission

3 Ridge Street
Dover, NH 03820-2505
603-742-2523
fax 603-742-7986
sprc@strafford.org
www.mv.com/ipusers/plan

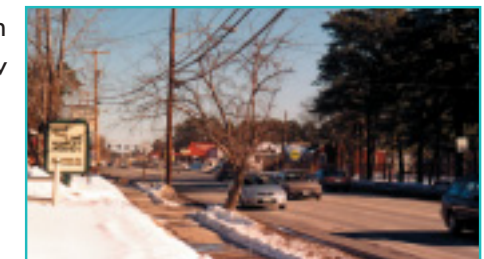
Transportation issues are fundamental to today's hot topics of "sprawl" and "smart growth", so check your newspaper for stories on local projects and advertisements of public hearings. Information on projects and meetings is also available on the NHDOT website, www.NHDOT.com.

If there is a particular project that interests you, and you want to be involved on an on-going basis, call or write for information and ask to be included on that project's mailing list.

Local Planning sets the stage

As our communities grow - with more residents, more businesses, more activity - more transportation capacity is required to move people and goods. Low-density land use patterns, or "sprawl", are spreading across the state. Large distances between residences, jobs, schools and shopping results in more use of cars. And that results in traffic congestion.

Local planning processes in towns and regions often play a leading role in planning for growth, both in transportation and land use, by planning the location of and access to new development. Get involved with your local government to help plan your community's future.



The changes in your community will affect the communities around it, and your Regional Planning Commission (RPC) or Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) conducts planning processes which coordinate among communities and develop plans for the region. Contact the RPCs and MPOs to find out about their public participation processes and to play a role in guiding their plans.